

[7th February 1924]

(e) The three Council Secretaries drew pay till 1st December 1923 at the rate of Rs. 500 per mensem each.

(f) Yes.

### Religious disputes.

*Committee to settle certain differences between Hindus and Mussalmans.*

284 Q.—Mr. YAHYA ALI SAHIB: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Committee appointed for settlement of disputes between Hindus and Muhammadans under G.O. No. 887, Home (Judicial), dated 30th March 1920, has submitted any report;

(b) the number of meetings held by the Committee and the total amount spent by the Government for the said Committee;

(c) whether it is a fact that owing to the pre-occupations of the President, Sir P. S. Sivaswami Ayyar, further meetings of the Committee could not be convened and hence their labours could not be completed; and

(d) if so, whether the Government will be pleased to appoint a fresh Committee to complete the work started by the aforesaid Committee?

A.—(a) No.

(b) So far as the Government are aware, the Committee held two meetings in 1920 and one in January 1921 under the presidency of Sir P. S. Sivaswami Ayyar. The Government are not aware of the exact expenditure incurred on this account, but as the Committee do not appear to have toured and only to have held three meetings, it must have been inconsiderable.

(c) Sir P. S. Sivaswami Ayyar resigned his position as President of the Committee in May 1921 owing to his frequent and prolonged absence from Madras in connexion with the sessions of the Legislative Assembly. Sir Ahmad Tambi Marakkayar was appointed to succeed him at the end of 1921, but as no meetings were held after his appointment, the Government suggested and Sir Ahmad Tambi agreed in July 1923 that the matter might be allowed to drop.

(d) In view of the history of the last Committee, which was entirely composed of non-officials, the Government do not think that any useful purpose would be served by appointing a second one.

Mr. YAHYA ALI SAHIB:—“ May I know if the order of appointment of Sir Ahmad Tambi Marakkayar was placed on the Editors' table or communicated to the members of the Committee? ”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—“ I really cannot say just now. But I will find out.”

Mr. YAHYA ALI SAHIB:—“ Were the members of the Committee consulted before the matter was allowed to drop? ”

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The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ All I can say is that Sir Ahmad Tambi was the only person who addressed the Government. Sir Ahmad Tambi stated that certain records which were absolutely essential for him to embark on his inquiry were not available and I think there was some kind of search for the records which went on for some time. Sir Ahmad Tambi said that the occasion had gone by for any such inquiry just now and that he allowed it to drop. We thought that he consulted his colleagues.”

Mr. YAHYA ALI SAHIB :—“ I must ask, if the answer to clause (d) is based only upon the report of Sir Ahmad Tambi, whether that is also the opinion of the other members of the Committee.”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ If the hon. Member desires further information, I will investigate into the matter and publish the circumstances under which the inquiry was dropped.”

*Committee to inquire into the Hindu-Muslim disputes.*

285 Q.—Mr. ABDUL HYE SAHIB : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether a Committee was formed to inquire into the Hindu-Muslim disputes regarding the playing of music in front of mosques on the motion of Sir Ahmad Tambi Marakkayar ; and whether the Government will lay on the table the deliberations of the said Committee ?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 284.

**Constitution of districts, divisions and taluks.**

*Re-grouping of village officers.*

286 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the re-grouping of village officers recently effected in the district of North Arcot has not only caused much hardship and dissatisfaction to the large body of village officers but detriment to their work inasmuch as the areas assigned to many of the village officers under re-grouping, sometimes including villages six to seven miles apart, have been arbitrarily fixed without regard to securing efficiency ;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the course of re-grouping the claims of experienced karnams were, in many cases, overlooked and new men appointed without regard to service or efficiency ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the recent reduction in the number of village menials has left a large number of villages without a village munsif, or a karnam, or a talaiyari or even a vettian with the result that none is available in those villages for safeguarding even Government property ; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the reduction in the number of village menials has made it difficult for the village officers to attend to collection work satisfactorily ?